

Hamilton Development Corporation (HDC) Hamilton/Wenham Village Visioning Workshops

The Hamilton Development Corporation (HDC), a public corporation chartered by the voters of Hamilton to guide development of the downtown, is sponsoring a series of three public meetings to form a vision for a more inviting business district. The goal is to seek guidance and input from abutters, merchants, and town residents to help the HDC, town leaders, and Planning Board develop design standards and zoning for the downtown. The first meeting will be Saturday, November 8th from 2 to 4 pm at the Senior Center 299 Bay Road; additional public input will be sought at follow-up workshops scheduled for December 6th and January 10, 2015 at the Hamilton/Wenham Public Library from 2-4 pm.

These workshops will build upon the public planning process begun last year, funded by a grant and conducted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The first phase of this public planning process resulted in publication of the Hamilton and Wenham Village Vision & Action Plan that is available at: www.hamiltonma.gov/Pages/HamiltonMA_Planning/Hamilton-Wenham_Village_Visioning_Report.pdf.

This next phase will build on the previous and focus on specific design standards and zoning modifications that may allow a mixture of uses in the village business district. The meeting on Saturday November 8th will feature a presentation by HDC President Brian Stein and board member Bill Gisness who both live downtown and are professional architects and planners. They will present a series of 3D models showing existing buildings, what is allowed by current zoning, and what the HDC feels might be appropriate development for the scale of the town. Bill Gisness and Brian Stein will then present images of buildings that illustrate the potential design standards and materials that fit within the context of our town. Participants will be asked their reactions to these various scenarios and rate their preferences on building heights, densities, usage, and designs as part of the exercise. The HDC will record participant's responses and use the public's input to help draft recommendations to the Planning Board and Selectmen on zoning modifications and formal building design standards for the village business district.

Residents of Hamilton and Wenham are encouraged to attend these public meetings and actively participate in helping the HDC and other town boards craft a vision and guidelines for shaping the future of the Hamilton Wenham business district while protecting its treasured past.

For more information please contact: Brian Stein, HDC President bstein@hamiltonma.gov